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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2981**

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**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session**

**By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Williams, Blake, and Simpson)**

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1            AN ACT Relating to moving towards more uniform surface mine  
2 regulations; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1)(a) A joint select committee on surface  
5 mine regulations is established, with members as provided in this  
6 subsection.

7            (i) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
8 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
9 representatives.

10            (ii) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each  
11 of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

12            (iii) In addition, the department of natural resources shall  
13 cooperate with the joint select committee and provide information as  
14 the chair of the joint select committee may reasonably request.

15            (b) The joint select committee shall choose its chair from among  
16 its membership. The speaker of the house of representatives and the  
17 president of the senate shall jointly select one legislative member to  
18 convene the initial meeting of the joint select committee.

1           (2) The joint select committee shall review the current surface  
2 mining statutes, chapter 78.44 RCW, to pursue options for moving  
3 towards a more uniform system of surface mining regulations that bases  
4 regulatory decisions on actual environmental harm and not on the status  
5 of the operation's ownership or the size of the operation. The joint  
6 select committee shall give particular attention to, but not be limited  
7 to discussing, the exemptions to the definition of the term "surface  
8 mine" included in RCW 78.44.031(17).

9           (3) Staff support for the joint select committee shall be provided  
10 by the house office of program research and senate committee services.

11           (4) Members of the joint select committee shall be reimbursed for  
12 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

13           (5) The expenses of the joint select committee shall be paid  
14 jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. Joint select  
15 committee expenditures are subject to approval by the senate facilities  
16 and operations committee and the house executive rules committee, or  
17 their successor committees.

18           (6) The joint select committee shall report its findings and  
19 recommendations in the form of proposed legislation to the appropriate  
20 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008.

21           (7) This section expires July 31, 2009.

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